



The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

California Department of Toxic Substances Control
El Centro Field Office
627 Wake Ave.
El Centro, 92243

Thursday, June 2, 2011
2:00 PM

DRAFT Meeting Notes

- Welcome and Introductions.** New River Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Co-Chair Jose Angel (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board) called the meeting to order. In attendance were the following committee members /designees/alternates: Logan Raub (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee), Antonio Ortega (Office of Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez), Steve Charlton (Imperial Irrigation District), Roger Vintze (Department of Toxic Substances Control, Imperial County CUPA), Andy Horne (County of Imperial), Bart Chirstensen (State Water Resources Control Board), Carlos Angulo (California Environmental Protection Agency), Jeff Loux (UC Davis), Gene Crumley (UC Davis), Krista Sloniowski (UC Davis). Participating by phone: Rebecca Little Owl (International Water and Boundary Commission), Russell Bartlett (California Department of Public Health), Abid Khalaf (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), John McCaull (Consultant), Frank Gonzalez (Cal Trans), Daniel Garza (California Environmental Protection Agency), Jon Ballard (US General Services Administration), Jeong-Hee Kim (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Anna Morales (International Boundary and Water Commission, Yuma Office).
- TAC Chair Update.** Co-Chair Jose Angel welcomed the TAC members. Jose informed the TAC that Chair Ricardo Martinez (California Environmental Protection Agency) was planning on attending today's meeting but was called upon at the last minute by Secretary Linda Adams for a series of meetings in the Coachella Valley. Jose reiterated that the TAC and the New River Improvement Project is still one of Cal/EPA's main priorities and also thanked the TAC and UC Davis for their hard work. Jose reminded the TAC workgroups of the previously set dates for draft reports to be submitted to the UC Davis team.
- Strategic Plan Outline Update.** Jeff Loux and Krista Sloniowski (UC Davis) reported that they have completed about twenty three (23) interviews and thanked all of the TAC members for their opinions and time. They had just finished synthesizing those interviews and created an "Anonymous Summary" which is about ten (10) pages long. The purpose of keeping the summary anonymous is to make sure that the opinions can be viewed in a way that doesn't predispose them to certain

biases and to help the overall robustness of the final product. Jeff also felt that this “Anonymous Summary” serves the purpose of demonstrating a good-process and good-faith effort of the TAC to make sure that all view points on the New River are included in the Strategic Plan. Krista updated the TAC on the status of the draft Strategic Plan. The outline for the Strategic Plan has been refined and once she has the workgroup reports she will start filling in the narrative part of the text. The UC Davis team developed an adjusted timeline for the delivery of the Strategic Plan based on comments from the previous TAC meeting. The goal is to have a draft to the TAC by August 8. The UC Davis team asked the TAC members if there were any objections to the newly presented timetable for the delivery of the draft Strategic Plan, and no members objected. There was some debate as to the timing of the “New River Symposium,” but TAC members reached an agreement that the mid-September date would work well with the already scheduled “Imperial Valley Environmental Health Summit.”

4. Progress Reports from Workgroups.

- a. **Impairments.** Jose Angel and Logan Raub (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board) gave an update on the progress of the impairments workgroup report. Jose reported that he has added addition Regional Water Board staff to make sure the workgroup meets its deadline. Staff has been working diligently in developing a worktable that they hope to present in draft form for the TAC’s review at the next TAC meeting.
- b. **Remediation.** Steve Charlton (Co-Chair). The workgroup is working through writing the narrative. Their last workgroup meeting was very productive but the bulk of the work is still sifting through the many remediation options. Steve asked the TAC for guidance is regards to how the workgroup should prioritize the remediation options. Jose Angel suggested that the group give more focus to remediation options based on the reach that the remediation option is intended to be used. For example, the group should focus in on encasement options for the first reach of the New River as it flows through the west-side of Calexico. Jose stated that the Remediation workgroup needed to start considering the technical aspects of the remediation options.
- c. **Background and Funding.** Dan Garza (Designee, California Environmental Protection Agency). The workgroup is still waiting for the results of the Impairments and Remediation workgroup reports, which they feel are necessary before the workgroup moves further in their analysis. John McCaull updated that he is progressing on a legal brief and has also been helping the City of Calexico through the processes necessary to obtain the \$4 million in Federal funding.
- d. **Visioning.** Miguel Figueroa (Co-Chair). The visioning workgroup’s report is pretty much complete and would be sent out to TAC members after the meeting for their input and suggestions.

5. Timetable for Next Three Months

- a. The following TAC meeting dates were approved by the TAC members present (unless otherwise denoted, all meeting dates will take place at the Department of Toxic Substances Control's El Centro Office):
 - June 16, 2011 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
 - July 7, 2011 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
 - July 21, 2011 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
 - August 18, 2011 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- b. The tentative date(s) of September 14, 2011 or September 15, 2011 were agreed upon by the TAC members present for the "New River Strategic Plan Symposium."

6. Next Steps

- a. Co-Chair Jose Angel informed TAC members that they were all invited to participate in a tour of the Mexicali Region (Baja California, Mexico) co-hosted by the International Water and Boundary Commission. The tour is scheduled to take place on Friday, June 17, 2011, after the next TAC meeting. Any interested TAC members need to contact Jose immediately.
- b. Comments or suggestions on the Visioning Workgroup Draft Report should submit them to Miguel Figueroa (info@calexiconewriver.com).
- c. TAC members should continue to communicate with the UC Davis team, specifically Krista.
- d. Next meeting June 16, 2011, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

7. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM (PST).